(d) if so, to what extent India is satisfied and the steps India has taken to avoid such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) It has been conveyed to the Australian Government that attacks on Indian students should not be allowed to happen and that it is the responsibility of the Australian authorities to ensure the well-being and security of our students in Australia. A similar message was conveyed to the nine-member Australian delegation of Educational Service Providers and Stakeholders which visited India recently.

(b) No incidence of cancellation of travel to Australia by Indian students has been reported.

(c) As a result of demarches made by the Government of India, the Australian Government has taken a series of steps to ensure safety and security of Indian students in Australia. These include provision of a 24-hour hotline (in Hindi and English) by a Community Reference Group to provide support, information and advice to Indian students who are victims of crime, including possible racial attacks.

(d) The Government of India is monitoring the efficacy of the measures taken on a continual basis and will remain deeply engaged with the Australian authorities to ensure the safety and security of Indian students in Australia.

Protectionism in US

2916. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether after China, India has raised banner of fresh trade against growing Protectionism in US;

(b) if so, whether India has pointed out that IT industry would be affected due to impact of financial meltdown;

(c) if so, whether Government has addressed this issue and opposing protectionism not only here but at every forum;

(d) if so, the outcome of talks held with India on issue of protectionism and whether US has agreed to consider views expressed by India; and

(e) whether one lakh Indian are likely to return from US in next three to five years due to this?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) Yes. During the recent visit of Commerce and Industry Minister, Shri Anand Sharma to Washington from 16-19 June 2009, he conveyed to his interlocutors in the US Government and the US Congress, India's concern about the consequences to the Indian economy if protectionist policies are adopted in the USA. These concerns were reiterated during the visit of Secretary of State Ms. Hillary Clinton to India from 17-21 July, 2009.

(c) and (d) The US Government has taken note of India's concerns. The US Secretary of State, speaking at the "Synergies Summit" hosted by the US Indian Business Council in Washington on 17 June, 2009 said "President Obama has been clear that the United States has learned the lessons of the past. We will not use the global financial crisis as an excuse to fall back on protectionism. We hope India will work with us to create a more open, equitable set of opportunities for trade between our nations."

(e) Indians, like all others in the USA, have been affected by the recession in that country, which has resulted in an unemployment rate of 9.8% by June, 2009 in the USA.

G8-G5 summit in Italy

2917. SHRI D. RAJA:
SHRI R.C. SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister had attended the recent G8-G5 summit in Italy;

(b) if so, the details of the discussion took place and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether he had taken up the question of reforming the international institutions like United Nations and our demand for a permanent seat on the UN security council with the countries participated in the summit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) Yes. Prime Minister attended the recent G8-Outreach Summit in L'Aquila, Italy on 8-10 July, 2009.

(b) Various Sessions of the G8-Outreach countries' Summit focused on different themes. One Session on the first day discussed global issues and development policies. This was followed by discussion on future sources of growth. Other Sessions were devoted to trade matters and climate change. The next day's Session covered food security. The G-8-Outreach Summit adopted a Joint Declaration ['Promoting the Global Agenda'] and a Joint Statement on Food Security ['L'Aquila Joint Statement on Global Food Security'] and as MEF (Major Economies Forum) adopted a Declaration on Energy and Climate ['Declaration of the Leaders the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate'].

(c) Amongst the assembled Leaders, the discussions covered the restructuring of international organizations dealing with issues such as food security, energy security and recovery of growth. L'Aquila Summit meetings were devoted to them. As such, UN Security Council reforms did not specifically feature in the discussions.

(d) Does not arise.